



**(3) Status of Claims**

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/866,866 was filed on May 29, 2001 with claims 1-20. In the Response filed on September 20, 2002 to the Restriction Requirement mailed August 27, 2002, Applicants elected claims 16-17 for prosecution and in the Office Action mailed December 4, 2002, the Examiner withdrew claims 1-15 and 18-20 from consideration. In the Amendment filed on March 24, 2003, claims 1-15 and 18-20 were canceled, claims 16-17 were amended, and new claims 21-28 were added. Claim 16 was further amended in the Amendment filed on July 29, 2004 and in the Amendment filed December 20, 2005, claim 16 was amended, claims 17, 21 and 25-28 were canceled, and new claims 29-34 were added. In the Amendment filed July 21, 2006, claims 16, 31, and 33 were amended and in the Amendment filed March 30, 2007, claims 16, 31, and 33 were further amended. The amendments to claims 16, 31, and 33 were entered and each of claims 16, 22-24, and 29-34 were finally rejected in the Office Action mailed May 14, 2007. On August 14, 2007 Appellant appealed from the final rejection of claims 16, 22-24, and 29-34 (all claims currently under examination in this application). Thus, each of claims 1-15, 17-21, and 25-28 is canceled and each of claims 16, 22-24, and 29-34 is currently under appeal.

Dated: December 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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